Ban on Cigarette Smoking

60. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre measured polonium-210 levels in tobacco which is an alpha particles emitting radioactive element;

(b) whether radioactivity in cigarette accounts for at least 90 per cent of all smoking related cancers;

(c) whether PO-210 float in the ambient air for the passive neighbours to inhale; and

(d) whether in view of the above, Government proposed to have a complete ban on cigarette smoking in the interest of health of the citizens and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) According to the Bhabha Research Centre, direct correlation between radioactivity in cigarettes and smoking related concerns has not yet been established.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to tackle the adverse effects of tobacco use, a comprehensive legislation, namely The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" has been enacted by the Parliament recently. The Act intends to discourage the use of tobacco products through various control measures like total ban on advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age and within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

CGHS dispensaries in Karnataka

61. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries functioning in Karnataka as on the date, location-wise;